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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

no *USSR - Middle East: [Ambassador Thompson in Moscow believes that Soviet leaders are embarrassed by the extent to which the prospect of a Communist takeover in Iraq has become evident, and that they will endeavor to conceal the extent of Communist influence there while consolidating their position for the long pull. The Soviet ambassador in Baghdad urged Ambassador Jernegan on 20 March to promote "cooperation" between the USSR and the United States in order to ease current tensions in the Middle East.] Thompson interprets private remarks of presidium member Kozlov on 16 March as indicating a belief by Soviet leaders that the Middle East will eventually "go Communist," but that this will be a long process. Moscow continues to criticize Nasir's anti-Qasim, anti-Communist attacks, but it apparently has made no move thus far to interfere with economic or military assistance to the UAR.

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Cambodia - South Vietnam: [Tense relations between Cambodia and South Vietnam continue, with the tempo of public charges and countercharges between the two countries rising. Through the controlled press, the Cambodian Government is again threatening to move closer to the Communist bloc unless South Vietnam drops its "menacing" pose.]

No Nyasaland: [A group of Asian-African states may be planning to seek UN consideration of the two-month-old Nyasaland dispute. The steering committee of the All-African People's Conference in Accra will meet in early April to discuss means of assisting the Africans in their struggle against the white-dominated government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC
(No Back-up Material)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Cambodia - South Vietnamese Relations

Cambodian - South Vietnamese relations are becoming increasingly bitter. Cambodia is incensed at Vietnam's flat denial of any wrongdoing in the face of "irrefutable" evidence that it has been involved in plotting against Premier Sihanouk, and Phnom Penh accuses Saigon of an unreconstructed attitude.

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Sihanouk's press organ Realités on 21 March printed a photostat of an alleged conspiratorial letter to the late dissident General Dap Chhuon from Vietnam's former representative in Cambodia, Ngo Trong Hieu. The paper threatened to publish "more embarrassing documents" unless Vietnam at least repudiated Hieu as acting without official sanction. Furthermore, Realités hinted that Cambodia will be forced to turn to the Communist bloc for support unless Vietnam drops its "menacing" pose. It offered Saigon the choice of a "neutral and correct" or a "progressive and hostile" Cambodia.

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[Meanwhile, deepening Cambodian suspicion that the United States is in league with South Vietnam against Sihanouk has reached a stage of almost open hostility. This attitude, sanctioned and encouraged by the Sihanouk government, is creating a climate favorable to expanded Communist bloc influence in Cambodia.]

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Asian-African States May Raise Nyasaland Dispute in UN

[The Ethiopian ambassador in London stated on 19 March that a group of Asian-African states plans to bring the two-month-old Nyasaland dispute to the attention of the United Nations, presumably the Security Council.]

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[In addition, an official of the All-African People's Conference (AAPC) permanent secretariat reportedly has announced a meeting of the steering committee for early April to discuss means of assisting the Africans in their struggle against the white-dominated government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Although peaceful tactics such as civil disobedience and economic boycotts were stressed by the AAPC during its conference in Accra, Ghana, last December, the pace of events in Tropical Africa has strengthened the extremists who had succeeded at Accra in obtaining only oblique endorsement of the use of violence in special situations.]

[Ghana's Prime Minister Nkrumah, who acted as a moderating influence at the December meeting, reportedly now has agreed to discuss the possibility of supporting violence. Meanwhile, he has offered his country's good offices to settle the dispute and has called for a round-table conference to work out a constitution which would "respect the will of the majority and provide safeguards for the racial minorities."]

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